

Cass River Watershed to be Assessed

Gary Lee, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service of Michigan, announces the selection of the Cass River Watershed for completion of a Rapid Watershed Assessment. The 580,000 acre watershed covers portions of 6 counties including Huron, Tuscola, Sanilac, Lapeer, Genesee and Saginaw.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has selected Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator James Hergott (Bay City) to lead this effort at the local level. Hergott has been working for the past year with a group from the Frankenmuth area on issues relating to Dam Restoration and Recreational Issues including access, trails and greenways. “This group, while at the outlet end of the watershed, has a good handle on impacts the whole watershed has on their problems and will be looking to develop a watershed management plan in the near future. The Rapid Watershed Assessment will help us get there.” Hergott said..

Rapid Watershed Assessments provide initial estimates of where conservation practices would best address the concerns of the community. Using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) to evaluate land use concerns, the assessments help local leaders set priorities and determine the best course (s) of action to achieve those priorities.

A technical committee will be formed to review information gathered, recommend additional informational needs and develop recommendations of action. Information to be gathered will include mapping of land cover, precipitation, land capability, land ownership, population density, and social and economic data, just to mention a few. This mapping may also include specialized and localized detail, for example road crossings with highly erodible soil potential may be mapped for future investigation to determine impact from runoff and sedimentation to area rivers and streams.

For additional information you may contact Hergott by telephone at 989-684-5650 or email jim.hergott@mi.usda.gov